

25 Year Vision for Dartmoor: Enhancing Dartmoor's special qualities today, for tomorrow

Dartmoor's special qualities are enhanced for the benefit of people today and the next generation, enriching people's lives and providing inspiration, challenge, and enjoyment. Dartmoor leads the way in responding to future challenges and opportunities, looking forward, innovating, and testing new ideas and ways of working.

The unique landscapes of wild open moorlands with striking granite tors and steep wooded river valleys, intimate enclosed farmland with historic field patterns, and settlements, are celebrated and enhanced. The restoration of natural processes will be the priority at the heart of the vision for the Dartmoor's natural environment, with the regeneration of soils and water delivering a multitude of benefits for nature and society. There is a focus on nature recovery at a landscape scale across the National Park, supported by land management systems which produce environmental and public goods as well as food and timber. Habitats are protected, restored, maintained and connected. There is an abundance and diversity of species once common to Dartmoor, which are widespread and thriving. Targeted species lost to Dartmoor have been successfully reintroduced, enhancing biodiversity and building future resilience. Space is dedicated and provided for nature to thrive. The diversity, abundance and distribution of species and habitats on Dartmoor will change in response to climate change but these will be more resilient to future changes. There is acceptance of change, and that in future Dartmoor's landscape and wildlife may be different, with some areas becoming wilder as nature is allowed to take its course. Connections are made with landscapes adjoining Dartmoor to provide a stronger, resilient natural environment for the future.

The international importance, fragility and non-renewable nature of Dartmoor's Cultural Heritage is protected, valued, understood and experienced by all. Dartmoor's archaeological heritage is in good condition, visible and accessible. The character of Dartmoor's settlements and historic built environment are preserved and enhanced. Dartmoor's distinctive local traditions, customs and practices are valued, celebrated and maintained.

The farming and forestry sectors are recognised and rewarded for their essential role in supporting Dartmoor's special qualities. Policy measures that incentivise the provision of public goods such as thriving wildlife, clean water, access and cultural heritage, as well as high-quality products from the land, ensure that farmers and foresters play their full role in enhancing Dartmoor's natural beauty and special qualities.

Dartmoor National Park is a place to experience solitude, tranquillity and dark night skies but also offers unrivalled recreation opportunities. It is accessible to all visitors, supported by high quality infrastructure. People are provided with opportunities to learn about and enjoy the special qualities of Dartmoor to encourage sustainable use of and grow their interest in the National Park. Dartmoor welcomes and adapts to future visitor and recreation trends. There is less conflict and a greater mutual understanding between those who live and work on Dartmoor and those that come to visit. The National Park is recognised and used as an important green space for improving mental and physical health. Young people feel that the National Park is an accessible place to visit and have the confidence to visit. They are part of helping share its story and shaping its future.

Dartmoor's communities promote and embrace positive change, leading the way on climate change mitigation, and making the best use of Dartmoor's natural, built and cultural resources. They have ready access to the homes, services and facilities they need, and are able to make sustainable travel choices. People who live in the National Park have the opportunity to work locally, and Dartmoor's businesses have access to a skilled workforce.

The economy continuously develops in a manner that enables local businesses to thrive while securing the special qualities of the National Park. This development maintains the resilience and diversity of the existing businesses while encouraging growth and innovation. Dartmoor is an asset for the nation, and a catalyst for prosperity across the region, admired for its innovation and entrepreneurship and valued for its natural capital.